



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH**

## **Introduction to**

# BSc (Hons) Sociology with Psychology

## **Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement**

### **Primary Purpose**

Course management, monitoring and quality assurance.

### **Secondary Purpose**

Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

### **Disclaimer**

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification Supplement. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification Supplement; however, changes may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, review and update of units and courses. Where this activity leads to significant changes to units and courses, there will be prior consultation of students and others, wherever possible, and the University will take all reasonable steps to minimize disruption to students. It is also possible that the University may not be able to offer a unit or course for reasons outside of its control, for example; the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible. Where appropriate, the University will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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# **Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement**

## **1. Named Award**

BSc (Hons) Sociology with Psychology

## **2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)**

C1509 (L3C8)

To view units and course structures please visit [www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch](http://www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch) and enter the 'C' code above to find the correct course.

## **3. Awarding Body**

University of Portsmouth

## **4. Teaching Institution**

University of Portsmouth

## **5. Document Control Information**

Version: August 2017

## **6. Effective Session**

2017-18

## **7. Home Course Leader**

Dr Joseph Burridge

## **8. Home Faculty**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

## **9. Home Department**

School of Social, Historical and Literary Studies

## **10. About this Programme Specification Supplement**

This Combined Honours Course Programme Specification Supplement is designed for prospective students, registered students, University staff and potential employers. It provides an introduction to combined honours courses at the University of Portsmouth, and an overview of the course rationale, aims and learning outcomes.

A full Programme Specification is prepared for each half of the course. This supplement links the full Programme Specifications for each half of the Combined Honours Course. In the full Programme Specification documents (see A1. and A2. below), you will find more detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes, unit information, reference points, support for student learning and regulatory arrangements for each half of the Combined Honours.

**A1. Combined Honours Sociology Half - PSD**

**A2. Combined Honours Psychology Half - PSD**

## 11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth

At the University of Portsmouth, our Combined Honours Degrees are predetermined combinations of subjects (subject A and subject B). Most students will be registered on a joint award where the number of credits studied in both subjects is roughly the same (approximately 50/50).

A small number of Combined Honours courses are designated major/minor courses where subject A is the major subject and subject B is the minor subject (approximately 66/33). For a joint Combined Honours, a student may choose to undertake a dissertation in subject A or subject B; in the case of major/minor awards, the dissertation will always be in the major subject. This is the case for Sociology with Psychology.

## 12. Course Management

For each course, one of the academic departments owning one of the two subject halves will be designated the 'home' department. The home department is often, **but not always**, the first named of the subject combination, see section 9 above for this course's home. The home department will be the students' base and is responsible for providing the academic course leader, personal tutor and student support. A deputy course leader is appointed from the 'away' department.

The University operates a two-tier course management structure at department level, which monitors students' progression and achievement at unit level and award level. At University level, there is a dedicated Combined Honours Management Board, which reviews annually overall student experience, monitors student achievement and advises on the introduction and withdrawal of new course combinations.

## 13. Course Rationale

Psychology examines the workings of the mind and how this relates to behaviour. It fits very well with sociology which is concerned with developing theories that explain the changing nature of social behaviour in different societies.

Our degree course is designed to provide the opportunity to major in sociology and study a set of psychology units. Students study 120 credits of psychology in their three years on the degree. They do not need a science A Level or any background in statistics, although there will be some exposure to these elements of psychology. They will study 240 credits of sociology and their options and dissertation will be sociology based.

From Sociology, they will begin with major theoretical perspectives in sociology and specific topics like social inequalities and social change. Options vary from year to year but include such areas as violence and war, food and society, and work and employment.

The Psychology element introduces psychology topics such as personality and behaviour, interaction and communication, the developing person, mental processes, employment and occupational environments, and contemporary issues and lifestyles.

***Please note that students taking BSc (Hons) Sociology with Psychology cannot transfer to single honours psychology. Furthermore, this is not a British Psychological Society (BPS) conferred degree award and, therefore, will not constitute a basis for exemptions from BPS core courses.***

We expect to recruit a variety of students who may offer different sorts of qualifications or demonstrate evidence of competence or ability to succeed on the programme.

## 14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of the social world by focusing on the relations that connect individuals, groups, and institutions.
- To develop an awareness of the nature of social processes, social diversity and inequality, and social change.
- To provide students with a strong foundation in the key concepts and theoretical approaches developed within sociology and the research strategies and methods used in gaining

sociological knowledge.

- To enable students to develop an understanding of the relationship between sociological argument and evidence.
- To facilitate the development of both students' independent study and collaborative work
- To prepare students to undertake postgraduate research or to complete specialised professional training.
- To provide students with a coherent introduction to specific aspects of psychology
- To develop an appreciation of psychological research.
- To create an awareness of the importance of empirical research in the development of psychological theory.
- To promote an awareness of the ways in which psychology can be applied to everyday phenomena and develop an interest in psychological enquiry that complements the major subject area.

### **15. Employability Statement**

Employability skills are delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. We provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from L4 to L6. Core units at each level include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework. Career management skills specifically (as a subset of employability skills) are embedded throughout the curriculum.